

Message Text

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ACTION PA-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 SCI-06 COME-00 DRC-01

RSC-01 /038 W

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R 210857Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8342

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FOL TEL DATED NOV 19, 1973 FROM AMCONSUL NAHA SENT ACTION
TOKYO INFO COMUSJAPAN, CG USARBCO FORT BUCKNER OKINAWA, CG
MARCORBASE CAMP BUTLER OKINAWA, CG 313TH AD KADENA AIR BASE
OKINAWA, COMFLEACTS OKINA RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAHA 479

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PINT, JA

SUBJ: EXPO '75 TO BE RECONSIDERED?

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS GOJ, BECAUSE OF OIL CRISIS,
RESTDYING EXPO '75 TO SEE IF IT SHOULD BE POSTPONED, ABANDONED,
OR REDUCED IN SCALE. PRIME MINISTER TANAKA IS REPORTED, HOWEVER,
ON NOV 19 AS SAYING IT WOULD GO OFF ON TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL OKINAWAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED NOV 17-18 THAT THE
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD BEGIN STUDIES THIS WEEK TO SEE
WHETHER THE EXPO SHOULD BE CANCELLED, POSTPONED, OR REDUCED IN
SCALE. NAKASONE (MITI MINISTER) IS QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD
GOVERNOR YARA THAT HE WANTED TO CONTINUE EXPO PREPARATIONS, BUT
THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO RESTUDY EXPO WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
REDUCING PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURES. HOWEVER, PAPERS NOTED THAT
THE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL D'EXPOSITIONS WOULD HOLD MEETING IN
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PARIS ON NOV 29 AND SPECULATED THKZ MITI WAS PREPARING POSSIBLE

EXPLANATION IN CASE THE GOVERNMENT MADE A POLITICAL DECISION TO ALTER THE PLANS ON EXPO. DR. OHAMA, HEAD OF THE OKINAWA EXPO ASSOCIATION, REPORTEDLY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE WITH EXPO AS PLANNED TO AVOID ECONOMIC DISLOCATION AND CONFUSION. HE MET NOV 19 IN TOKYO WITH GOVERNOR YARA, WHO IS DESCRIBED BY THE RYUKYU SHIMPOO AS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF HOLDING THE EXPO ON SCHEDULE. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS PREMIER TANAKA AS TELLING A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY VISITOR ON NOV 19 THAT HE IS AGAINST PLANS TO POSTPONE EXPO. THE PAPER ALSO STATES THAT THE VICE MINISTER OF THE OKINAWA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IS BEING SENT TO NAHA TO PREPARE A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CABINET. BACK IN OKINAWA, KENROOKYOO CALLED AGAIN FOR ABANDONMENT OF EXPO, AND JCP CALLED FOR POSTPONEMENT.

3. COMMENT. THE OIL CRISIS OBVIOUSLY WOULD PROVIDE A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GOJ TO CHANGE EXPO PLANS WITH A MINIMUM LOSS OF FACE. THE CURRENT SITUATION ALSO GIVES THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT THE CHANCE TO FORCE THE PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE ONUS OF WHETHER OR NOT IT WANTS THE EXPO ON SCHEDULE, THUS UNDERCUTTING THE LEFTIST CHARGES THAT EXPO IS A MAINLAND SCHEME WHICH SACRIFICES LOCAL INTERESTS.

SYLVESTER
UNQUOTE SHOESMITH

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